

The Buckeye Patriot

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Sons of the American Revolution

Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, 2020

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In This Issue

President's Desk	1
Welcome New SAR Members, Fallen Tree Planted by George Washington Gets Solemn Honors, Chapter #12 Officers	2
The American Revolution in the Adirondacks	3
Honoring Patriot Simeon Prior	4
Breathing New Life into the Story of the Revolution	5
Photos from June 27th Dedication Ceremony, Virtual Lecture: Crossing of the Delaware	6
Dr. Hugh Williamson Saved Lives During the Revolution	7
2020 Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate Award	8
Yes, Even George Washington Can Be Redeemed	9
Important Dates, Portrait of Samuel Adams	10



November 11, 2020

"The true heroes of this world are the brave men and women who choose to stand for something greater than themselves, our nation's veterans!"

From The President's Desk

Compatriots, Brothers & Friends,

As you know, Veterans Day is a U.S. holiday that honors all who served in America's military, on land, sea, and air. It started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service, and was originally called Armistice Day.

Veterans Day can trace its roots to the end of World War I and falls on November 11th since that's the anniversary of the signing of an armistice that ended World War I when a temporary cessation of hostilities was declared between the Allied Nations and Germany to end "the Great War." This armistice with Germany went into effect at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 1918.

Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to Veterans Day in order to account for all veterans, in all wars. It has been set aside as a time for every patriotic American to pay their respect and honor those who have served the cause of liberty & freedom in the American Armed Forces, from the founding of our nation to present day.

On this day, we stand united, in remembrance of our Veterans' patriotism, their love of country, their willingness to serve, and of their sacrifice for the common good.

I offer every Compatriot Veteran my grateful gratitude, my sincere appreciation, and my protective prayers for God to bless you mightily because of the blessing you've been to so many!

Patriotically yours,

Jim Pildner, President
Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution

Thinking of You on Veteran's Day

Sometimes saying "thank you" seems small when your service has been anything but that - it has made a difference in more ways than you can see and more lives than you'll ever know.

- Anonymous

Welcome New SAR Members!

Eric Fellows
Jayden Fellows
James Keherly
Mark Rhoades



Fallen Tree Planted by George Washington Gets Solemn Honors Before Facing the Sawmill

Two fifers played the national anthem. A Navy chaplain read lines from the Bible about a tree that reached to heaven. And an Army howitzer fired a salute that filled the woods with smoke. The 5,000-pound decedent rested on a metal pallet, moss still on its bark, while workers waited at a portable mill saw, with axes, hatchets and crow bars. The majestic white oak had stood at George Washington's Mount Vernon for about 240 years until it fell on a windless night last November. It had witnessed the passing of history, as Civil War soldiers carved in its bark, and "all living things were blessed by its fruit," the chaplain said. It was 115 feet tall and 12 feet around, and Wednesday morning, a requiem was held before it was consigned to the sawyers. Cicadas droned and sunlight shined through the foliage, as Navy Lt. Brandy Brown quoted from the Book of Job: "For there is hope for a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again and that its shoots will not cease." After the prayer, Dean Norton, Mount Vernon's director of horticulture, said: "When you take a tree of this historic nature and ... do some real special ceremonies ... it honors the tree. I think it's wonderful." And it did not fall in vain, he said. The wood was being used for repairs at Mount Vernon and to make a drum and the long ceremonial spears called espontoons for the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry, known as "The Old Guard."
(www.washingtonpost.com)



Sgt. Zachary Zelkowski, left, and Capt. Henry Leutner fire a cannon as the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Regiment, known as the Old Guard, participates in a cutting ceremony for a 240-year-old fallen tree at Mount Vernon. (Matt McClain/The Washington Post)

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 Officers

President - [Jim Pildner](#)
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Genealogist - [Tim Ward](#)

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Chaplain - [William Robinson](#)

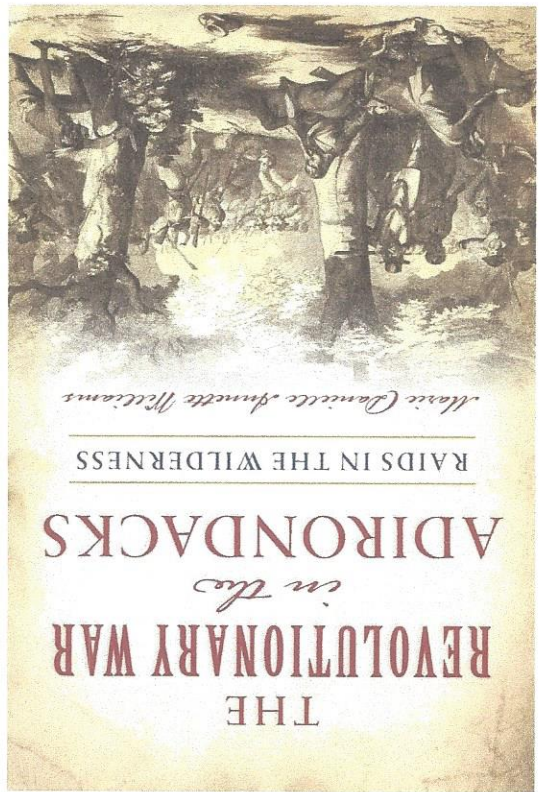
The American Revolution in the Adirondacks

[Lake George, New York] - The Shot Heard 'Round the World did not, at first, resound loudly in the Adirondacks. Historian and educator Marie D.A. Williams, in her new book, *The Revolutionary War in the Adirondacks: Raids in the Wilderness* (History Press, 2020), notes, "...the people of the Adirondack Mountains, Mohawk Valley and Hudson Valley regions tended to be either staunch Loyalists or apathetic to either side of the Revolution's cause."

That changed when British General Burgoyne led his armies from Canada through the region in a campaign to capture control of New York State. Burgoyne's 1777 defeat at Saratoga, Williams writes, was followed by a series of British raids in Upstate New York designed to interrupt supply lines and terrorize the people that lived in the region. These wilderness raids are the focus of her work.

Williams grew up in Lake Luzerne and says her interest in local history was piqued as a student in the fourth grade. Her class took walking tours of historic sites in town and visited Fort William Henry in Lake George. Her own ancestry traces back to a British Lieutenant who served under Burgoyne during the 1777 campaign, so while it may be true that much of history is written by the victors, Williams, in the writing of this book, tells the often hidden stories of the Loyalists in these lesser-known wilderness engagements — "I wanted to make sure that everyone's story gets told."

From the stories of the Jessups, Loyalist land barons that fled to Canada then returned to lead raids on their former neighbors, to Mohawk leader Joseph Brant who early on allied with the British, Williams chronicles the years of destruction. Farms, mills and entire villages were burned; crops were destroyed, livestock commandeered, and civilians were taken prisoner.



Beyond identifying dates, places, actions and actors, she discusses the impact these raids had on the people who lived in these mountains and valleys, including the Native Americans, who found they could not remain neutral. The wilderness raids are not extensively covered in most textbooks, but "For people who inhabited those areas," Williams writes, "...those raids shaped their perspectives on the war and would shape the war, as people were forced to choose sides, whether they wanted to do so or not."

Williams is currently preparing an article to commemorate the 240th anniversary of the raid on Ballston Spa and is continuing her research on the American Revolution wilderness raids with a focus on Upstate New York Patriots for a possible book.

Williams is a contributor to New York History Blog and Adirondack Almanac. *The Revolution in the Adirondacks: Raids in the Wilderness* which was released on August 18th, 2020. (www.lakegeorgeexaminer.com)

Honoring Patriot Simeon Prior

On Saturday June 27th, the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of the American Revolution, along with the descendants of Simeon & Katharine Prior, Daughters of the American Revolution, and several local community groups, participated in the dedication of a new Prior family monument. The site of the ceremony was the historic Harrington Cemetery in Cuyahoga Falls. Simeon Prior was not only a Revolutionary War veteran, he and his wife Katharine moved to the Connecticut Western Reserve twenty years after the end of the Revolutionary War and founded what would become Northampton Township in the wilderness of the Cuyahoga Valley.

Simeon enlisted in the Continental Army in 1776 and worked as an armorer from 1754 to 1837. He participated in the battles of Trenton and Princeton, and served as General Washington's bodyguard. According to Simeon's writings, he invented a device to shred the sails of enemy ships, had the opportunity to shoe General Washington's horse, and was in the same boat with General Washington when they crossed the Delaware River on the night of December 25th, 1776. Simeon credited General Washington with the idea of moving to the Connecticut Western Reserve.

The combined Color Guard of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 SAR and the City of Cuyahoga Falls Police & Fire Departments presented Colors, and local government leaders presented congratulations. The memorial program was facilitated by fifth-great-grandson, Kenneth Clarke and compatriot Steve Hinson of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 SAR. A memorial tribute and family history was given by fifth-great-grandson, Emery Prior. The monument of unveiled by sixth-great-granddaughter, Kacy Clarke. SAR and family members presented wreaths, and DAR Regent Venie Hinson laid a bouquet of flowers on the grave of Katharine Prior. Taps was played by Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 SAR member Dan Matheke.



Breathing New Life into the Story of the Revolution

Producer Nicolas Deprost's new series "Lafayette" was recently presented at the Mercato Internazionale Audiovisivo (MIA), the film and TV market taking place in Rome. "Lafayette" kicks off in the spring of 1777, when the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French aristocrat, sets sail from France for the New World, inspired by the spirit of the American Revolution and determined to hitch his fate to the fledgling cause. There he discovered that the faltering movement rested on the shoulders of one man, George Washington, the general struggling to lead a rag-tag army to victory despite insurmountable odds.

The series tells the story of the father-son bond between the young Frenchman and the man who would become the first president of the U.S., and how their mutual devotion saved the American Revolution. At the show's outset, the revolution is on the brink of collapse. Washington's forces have suffered a string of crushing defeats. The colonies are riven by indecision and infighting. The British have all but declared victory by the time Lafayette arrives in the New World.

Yet somehow, a cast of larger-than-life figures emerges, determined to see their audacious project to its completion. "We have this big epic story that can focus on this quite ad-hoc family between Lafayette, Washington, [General Nathanael] Greene—all the people that were gathering around Washington during the revolution," said Deprost.

Lafayette set sail from France burning with revolutionary fervor. After arriving in the New World, the young Frenchman wrote to Henry Laurens, then President of the U.S. Congress: "The moment I heard of America, I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom I burnt with a desire of bleeding for her; and the moment I shall be able to serve her, at any time, or any part of the world, will be the happiest of my life." "He just found it irresistible," said Franzoni. "It was a love affair. When he came to America, he brought that with him."

Against that historical backdrop is the relationship between the orphaned Lafayette, who was just two years old when his father died fighting the English, and the childless Washington, who was searching for a son. The bond they forged was an especially poignant one for Deprost, who lost his own father a year ago. "It gave me a push to work on this father and son bond...and the way that it makes you evolve [and] builds you as a man," he said.



The series also recasts the American Revolution to reflect its radically diverse nature, a fact often overlooked in contemporary tellings. Colonial women not only held down the fort while their husbands and sons went off to battle, but disguised themselves as men so they could take up arms. Slaves enlisted in the army, believing they were also fighting for their own freedom. One of the men who was instrumental in whipping the Continental Army into shape, Baron Von Steuben, was openly gay.

"You always have the human diversity in reality," said Deprost. "We need and we want that on screen. The series is named 'Lafayette.' But the real story is this gathering of completely diverse people that gather around the idea of the revolution." "It's an irresistible story," said Franzoni. "It's about personalities that won the people's revolution. Without those personalities, it would have failed." (variety.com)

Sunday, December 6 at 7:00pm
Washington Crossing Historic Park
112 River Road, Washington Crossing, PA 18977

Registration is required and opens October 25. [Click Here to Register](#). Log-in information will be forwarded upon registration. Zoom meeting details are sent immediately after you register. If you don't see that email within 15 minutes, please check your junk or spam folder. If you still don't see that email with Zoom information, please contact us at info@washingtoncrossingpark.org. Don't wait - we will have limited ability to assist on December 6!

McCarty will discuss the soldiers and civilians who participated in the days surrounding the crossing that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War. "My intent is to explore the lives, before and after the crossing, of some of the notable figures who participated, as well as others who don't factor into most narratives of that night," she says. "It's important to appreciate how each contribution helped the crossing, but it's also significant to understand that they were made by people, many of them anonymous to this day, who lived nuanced lives before and after that night."

This event will be held virtually via Zoom in partnership with the Friends of Washington Crossing Park; it will not be face-to-face in the park. Washington Crossing Historic Park curator Kimberly McCarty will give a free public lecture on Sunday, December 6 at 7 PM on some of the people who contributed to the Ten Crucial Days surrounding the crossing.

Virtual Lecture: Crossing of the Delaware



Photos from June 27th Dedication Ceremony

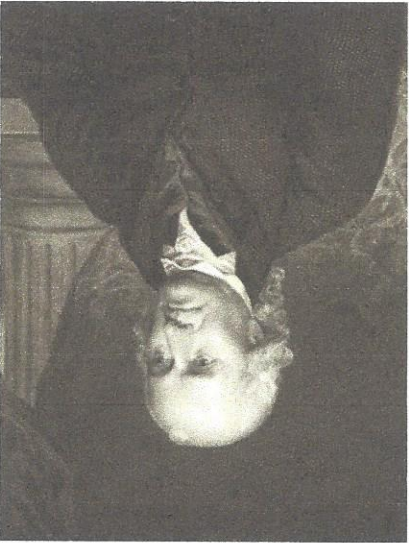
Dr. Hugh Williamson Saved Lives During the Revolution

In medicine, small details and small actions make the difference between life and death. Doctors and nurses work tirelessly to save lives and often go unnamed or unappreciated. Dr. Hugh Williamson is a figure largely unknown in modern times, but he was praised as one of the best medical minds in the young United States. His actions during the American Revolution saved countless lives and advanced military medicine to begin saving more in the future.

Hugh Williamson was born in a small farm town in Southeast Pennsylvania in 1735. His parents, both Irish immigrants, worked as clothes makers and merchants. His health was very bad when he was young, pushing him in a different direction. In 1777, he attempted to enlist in the Continental Army as a surgeon, but he was rejected on the grounds that there were no openings available. Instead, he returned to North Carolina and began secretly working with merchants in the Bahamas to import medicines into America, breaking the British blockade. His actions provided the colonies with an important avenue of medical supplies. From 1779 to 1782, he served as the Surgeon General of the North Carolina Militia.

Williamson's work with the Continental Army became crucial as the British tried to move into North Carolina. American forces were scattered in the Dismal Swamp near Wilmington to pin down the British. He insisted on a program of strict hygiene for troops to avoid outbreaks of disease, including training new recruits in the importance of cleanliness. Disease often devastated combat units. More soldiers died from disease and camp-borne epidemics than from battlefield injuries in the wars of this time period. Where the swamp could have become an even deadlier foe than the Redcoats, Williamson's thinking prevented any deaths from disease among the troops, an almost unheard-of accomplishment at the time. His standards were soon adopted throughout the army. His efforts saved hundreds of lives.

Dr. Hugh Williamson



After the American Revolution, he served briefly in the North Carolina legislature. In 1787, he was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Williamson raised against slavery at the convention and pushed for a fair system of representation in Congress similar to what resulted. However, he recognized that forces were working against him too much and the question would not be settled there. He supported the Constitution's ability to ban slave importation after twenty years, the limit of the document's possible restrictions on slavery at that point. He was one of only three North Carolina delegates to sign the Constitution that resulted. He was elected as part of North Carolina's first congressional delegation. He took his seat in 1790 at Philadelphia, which was the nation's capital at the time. He was re-elected in 1791. He declined to run for a third term and retired from politics in 1793. No political parties existed yet, but Williamson often found himself opposing many of the policies proposed by President George Washington, particularly on issues such as the national debt and possible protective tariffs.

Williamson settled in New York City after his retirement. He largely faded from the public eye and contented himself with scientific and medical research. He wrote many articles for scientific journals on a variety of topics, from lightning rods to biology. He still kept his connections to North Carolina, serving as one of the first trustees of the University of North Carolina. His sharp mind, intelligence, and curiosity about so many subjects led many contemporaries to compare him to Benjamin Franklin. He died in New York City in 1819 at age 83. Though largely forgotten, counties in Illinois and Tennessee are named for him. (www.heraldedemocrat.com)

2020 Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate Award

Established by the Ohio Society in 1979 the Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate is the highest personal recognition bestowed by the Ohio Sons of the American Revolution. Presented at the Ohio Society's Annual Meeting in the second quarter of the calendar year, the award is presented to the Ohio Society Member who has worked continuously to promote the Ohio Society and its mission of historic, educational and patriotic recognition of the American Revolution. The recipient is chosen by all living Laureates who review the service of selected nominees.

At an informal gathering, past OHS&SAR President Hinson (right) was presented the Hub Scott Laureate, Ohio Society's highest award. Fellow Laureate, Timothy Ward (left) makes the presentation. Due to restrictions on social gatherings imposed by the Corona Virus, a formal presentation was not possible. Click [HERE](#) to download a list of all OHS&SAR Laureates.

The Laureate medal is gold-covered with a dark blue border and lighter blue center with sixteen stars arranged to form a larger seventeen star, which commemorates Ohio as the seventeenth state of the United States and the first state of the Northwest Territory. Around the dark blue border is lettered "Ohio Society - Sons of the American Revolution - Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate." On the reverse, the recipient's name and year of presentation are engraved. The medal is suspended from a red and white neck ribbon representing the colors of Washington's personal life-guard. It can be worn in tandem with the officer's neck ribbon.

The recipient's name is engraved on a nameplate which is added to a traveling plaque displaying the medal and the names of all the Laureates. The most recent recipient of the award is the chairman of the committee to select the new awardee. All other living recipients are automatically members of the selection committee.

The award is named for Samuel Hubbard Scott of Toledo, Ohio who exemplified the qualities of an outstanding patriot - service, leadership, and dedication. He was a World War I Veteran. He became a member of the SAR in 1948 and was soon elected President of the Anthony Wayne Chapter.

In 1958 he was recognized as National Society Minuteman. Scott was a member of the American Legion and was known for his patriotic flag displays known as the Mile of Flags. He was never married. When he died in 1977 at age 86, his flag collection was passed to the Ohio Society to display and to educate the public. (www.ohssar.org)



Troy Bailey, Samuel Hubbard Scott Laureate Steve Hinson, and Tim Ward

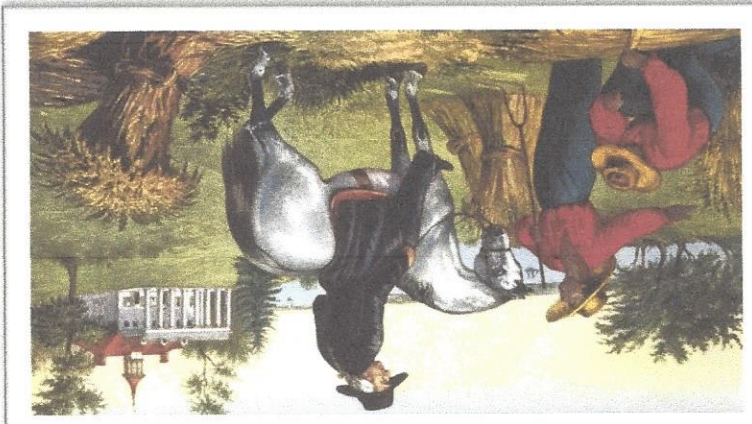
Yes, Even George Washington Can Be Redeemed

As you may know, George Washington was a slaveholder. For some Americans, this is reason enough to exclude our first president from the national pantheon. According to one poll, 18 percent of respondents believe he should be removed from Mount Rushmore. Others expressed themselves by defacing or toppling Washington statues. Are these critics right? On the surface, it might seem so. American slavery was inexpressibly gruesome. Yet, this critique fails to account for the specifics of Washington's personal journey. Within the tragic reality of his owning slaves lies a unique and unexpected story.

Like his fellow southerners, Washington was born into a society that accepted slavery. It is true he expressed no qualms about the institution until the American Revolution, but once he did, an extraordinary transformation began. The earliest change perhaps can be detected in Washington's correspondence with Phillis Wheatley, an African-American poet who had composed verses dedicated to him. Washington wrote to her in 1776 praising her "great poetic Talents" and expressing his desire for a meeting. The request broke strict etiquette between slaveholders and black people. Their correspondence highlights something Washington understood about African-Americans lost upon his contemporaries: their abilities and humanity. Compare Washington's reference to Wheatley's "genius," with Jefferson's harsh assessment that her poems "are beneath the dignity of criticism." Many of Washington's closest associates during the war opposed slavery, such as Alexander Hamilton and Lafayette. These individuals inclined Washington against the institution. Perhaps the greatest influence, however, were the many black people that served courageously during the war. After the Revolution, Washington began to speak of slavery in moral terms. He freed his slaves at his death—but this raises two questions: first, why didn't he do so in his lifetime, and second, why didn't he speak against slavery publicly?

First, we must note that Washington detested breaking up slave families, making it a policy not to do so. He realized, however, that freeing his slaves might make family breakups inevitable. Most of the slaves at his estate, Mount Vernon, belonged to his wife Martha's family, the Custises, which meant he couldn't legally free them. At Mount Vernon, Custis and Washington family slaves often intermarried. The Custis heirs regularly sold slaves, breaking up their families. Washington knew that if he liberated his slaves, some in the slave families would be free while the others would remain enslaved in Custis hands, vulnerable to being sold (which eventually happened).

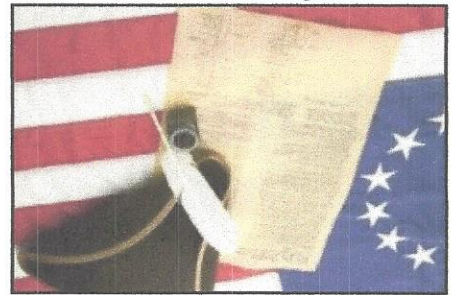
Second, we must note, while many founders were antislavery, several sought—their threatening disunion—to protect the institution, such as South Carolina's John Rutledge. This left antislavery founders in a difficult situation. They believed the nation could win independence, initiate a risky experiment in self-government, and survive in a dangerous world (threatened by predatory British, Spanish, and later, French empires) only by uniting the strength of every state into one union. This necessitated compromises with slave states during the founding, most notably in the Constitution.



George Washington's achievements are well known—winning independence, presiding over the Constitutional Convention, and serving as the first president. While we cannot ignore his participation in slavery, we shouldn't discount his remarkable transformation into someone who wished for its abolition and took steps personally to make things right, becoming the only major founder to free his slaves. We can acknowledge Washington's monumental victories for liberty while recognizing his personal struggle with slavery. In this time of national angst, Washington's story helps us understand how the same country that once held humans in bondage can also be the world's greatest beacon of freedom. (Linn)

**Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12
Sons of the American Revolution
Quarterly Newsletter**

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Libertas et Patria!

This newsletter is intended for members of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12 of the Sons of the American Revolution. It is for educational purposes only, and is not for sale.

Important Dates to Remember

131st NSSAR National Congress
July 10th - 15th, 2021
Hyatt Regency Lake Washington
1053 Lake Washington Blvd N
Renton, WA 98056
NSSAR Fall Leadership Meeting
September 23rd, 2021
(More Details to Follow)



Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Veterans Day Program

Saturday, November 14th, 2020

Best Friends Restaurant 11:30am

1741 OH-534, Geneva, Ohio 44041

Join with Google Meet:

meet.google.com/etv-kdno-nup

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Presidents Day Program &

Election of Officers

Saturday, February 13th, 2021

(More Details to Follow)

NSSAR Spring Leadership Meeting

March 4th, 2021

(More Details to Follow)

Northeastern Ohio Chapter #12

Patriots' Day Program

Saturday, April 17th, 2021

(More Details to Follow)

* times and dates are tentative and subject to change



Portrait of Samuel Adams painted by John Singleton Copley around 1772. (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)